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BILL FOR FREE ART INTRODUCED

On behalf of the American Free Art League, Representative William Alden Smith of Michigan introduced in the House, on February 10th, a bill for the removal of the duty on works of art. Bryan Lathrop of Chicago



THE DAY'S WORK DONE
By Henry Golden Dearth

is chairman of the league's executive committee, and Daniel H. Burnham of the same city is a member. The measure was referred to the committee on ways and means.

Advocates of the removal of the duty on works of art seem to have received assurances that their bill may become a law. They have sent out pamphlets which bear on the measure, in which they endeavor to show that the duty on art is a handicap to education. The bill follows:

To amend chapter 11 of the laws of 1897, entitled "An act to provide revenue for the government and to encourage the industries of the United States."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. That on and after the passage of this act no duties shall be levied, collected, or paid upon the following articles when imported from foreign countries into the United States, and they shall be added to the free list provided for by section 2 of chapter 11 of the laws of 1897, and said section shall be amended by adding at the end of subdivision 703 of

said section two subdivisions of said section, one to be known as 703 (a), to read as follows:

703 (a). Works of art, including paintings in oil, mineral, water, or other colors, pastels, original drawings and sketches, etchings and engravings, and statuary, but the term "statuary" as herein used shall be understood to include only professional productions of a sculptor, whether round or if relief, in marble, stone, alabaster, ivory, wood, or metal; and the word "painting" as used in this act shall not be understood to include such as are made wholly or in part by stenciling or other mechanical process; and the words "etchings" and "engravings" as used in this act shall be understood to include only such as are printed by hand from plates or blocks etched, or engraved with hand tools, and not such as are printed from plates or blocks etched or engraved by photo-chemical processes; and the other subdivision, to be known as 703 (b), to read as follows:

703 (b). Objects of art of ornamental character or educational value, which shall have been produced at any period prior to the year 1800; but the free importation of such objects shall be subject to such reasonable regulations as to proof of antiquity as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

Representative Smith is a member of the committee on ways and means, and on him will fall the labor of securing a favorable report from a body of men, not all of whom, by any means, look with favor upon a measure which will tend toward the reduction of the tariff on any articles, even though the plea of their educational value be entered. The two following articles will inform the readers of BRUSH AND PENCIL as to the work of the league and the arguments on which such work has been based.

N. R.

